

DR. LOEFFLER TELLS HOW HE FOUND DIPHTHERIA CURE

Noted Scientist Whose Discovery Saved Millions Describes His Experiments.

FOUGHT LONG BATTLE.

Guinea Pigs and Horse Were His Victims for Benefit of Humanity.

A modest, comfortable, stout gentleman who has saved more than a million lives, and will save millions more as time goes on, stood on the dock of the Thomas Brennan yesterday with the 25 visiting German doctors who inspected Ellis Island and told how he discovered the cure for diphtheria.

It was only when some bearded doctor approached and removed his hat in courtesy, listening a while respectfully to the stout man's words, that one realized he was a man of importance. Otherwise his look was blank and abstracted and his manner stolid, even heavy. Yet this man is Dr. Prof. F. Loeffler, who in 1885 started the scientific world with his discovery. And since then he has leaped into fame again and again, retiring always to his test tubes and his germs when he might have shone as the foremost physician scientist in the world.

Like all great men Dr. Loeffler does not pretend to be great. He is willing to tell of his work in an understandable way and not with polysyllabic mouthings, as many of our modern doctors do when they achieve some little thing.

To him his germs are so many little naughty children which must be corrected and even sent away if they cannot be made to behave. Some of the germs are "diphtheria," according to the professor, and some more elfin like mysterious goblins who must be known that they may not be feared.

WHAT THE DISCOVERY IS AND WHAT IT MEANS.

In perfect English, though heavily accented, Dr. Loeffler told for the benefit of The Evening World readers in simple language exactly what his discovery was and what it means.

"The ravages of diphtheria were terrible along in 1882," said the scientist, "and we were all trying to find a cure. We knew there must be a germ at work, but could not locate it. I cut out sections of the infected membranes and examined them under a microscope. There was no germ visible or no evidence of bacilli, as we might say. 'Either there are no bacilli or they are too small for even this powerful microscope to detect,' I thought, and so for a month or two I wasted time in trying to find more powerful apparatus. Then one day I made a cross section of an affected part under the microscope. There was nothing and over it nothing, but under the first layer of tissue I found my germs. That was a happy day in my life. The diphtheria germs were not the wretched creatures you see pictured at times. They were sluggish and died easily when brought to light. In other words, they were hard to raise. I tried a culture of germs, but it was no use. They would not grow. Then I tried bouillon made of serum and it was still no use. Four months had passed when I added a little sugar to the bouillon and, behold, the germs grew. I nursed them carefully until I had enough to experiment with.

"I have heard there is a big movement in America against cutting up animals and I may be criticised, but if I had not several good guinea pigs to work on there would have been no discovery. I took some of the germs and made an incision in the skin of a guinea pig, planting the terrible little things. They grew and sent out a poison which I found in the blood of the pig. Many pigs died from diphtheria, not in the throat more than any part of the body, before I found what I wanted. Here was the solution. Nature is strong but she cannot fight a constantly increasing amount of poison. But nature can adapt herself to small quantities of poison in the blood and build up a defense. As the poison increases gradually the defense becomes stronger. Life is a constant battle between minute forces within. I took some of the poison from the pigs and injected it into a big animal, a horse. It happened, was available. The horse grew sick and then well again, for he had only the constant amount of poison injected at the time to contend with. His blood had built up a fighting corpuscle which conquered the poison. MORE POISON FOR THE HORSE TO FIGHT OFF.

"After a time the new amount of warfare would die from inactivity, for the defenders of the body are good soldiers who need action. So I placed more poison in the horse, and more as he fought off each dose, increasing in amount. At last an examination of the horse's blood showed he had built up an antitoxin or poison fighting quality by nature and use extremely powerful. I took the serum from the blood and had a large quantity in work with. Now came the cure of diphtheria. A quantity of the fighting serum of the

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SCIENTIST WHO FOUND THE GERMS THAT CAUSE DIPHTHERIA



PROF. DR. F. LOEFFLER

horse was injected into a diphtheria patient. The battle began, and in a day or so the poison sent out by the working germs in the throat was overcome in the blood. All that had to be done was to keep overcoming it until the body grew strong enough to fight off the germs locked in the throat or other part. A strong body will fight off almost anything, but a weakened body needed something to counteract the weakening effect of the poison spilled into the blood constantly by the germs. As soon as this was done the body whipped the bacilli easily and became healthy again. That is the story of diphtheria and that is all there is to it."

Yes, indeed, that is all there is to it according to the modest, wonderful benefactor of humanity. But there is a lot more to it than that, and therein lies the reason why doctors salute the professor and that is all there is to it."

NEW AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON NAMED

Konstantin T. Dumba Appointed to Succeed Baron Hengelmüller, Who Has Been Retired.

VIENNA, Austria, Sept. 19.—Konstantin Theodor Dumba, at present Minister to Sweden, was today nominated to succeed Baron Hengelmüller von Henger as ambassador of Austria-Hungary at Washington.

Herr Dumba is a wealthy and popular diplomat. He inherited the property of his uncle, a Vienna banker and philanthropist who was a great art patron. Baron Hengelmüller has represented Austria-Hungary at Washington for eighteen years and was dean of the diplomatic corps there. When he retired some weeks ago he had reached the age limit in service.

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CASHIER DISAPPEARS AFTER SHOWING ROLL AMID WHITE LIGHTS

Hitch Is Sought in Hospitals on Theory He Was Drugged and Robbed.

The police today began a search through every hospital in New York and Brooklyn for E. L. Hitch, cashier of the Jones Speedometer Company, Cedar street, New Rochelle, who has been missing from his home in New Rochelle since Sept. 11. His wife, prostrated, is under the care of physicians. Hitch is thirty-five years old and has a nine-year-old son.

An Evening World reporter ascertained today that up to Sept. 16 Hitch had been stopping at the Times Square Hotel here, and that from his actions he may have been drugged later by persons at

tracted by a large roll of money he was carrying.

Hitch has been employed by the speedometer company for a year and a half, but moved to New Rochelle only two months ago, occupying a house at No. 28 Hickles avenue. The company is building a branch factory at the Bush terminals in Brooklyn, and Hitch had been transferred there. At noon on Sept. 11 he left his office after telling his wife he was going to Brooklyn to find a home. On the same day he appeared at the offices of the company, No. 2100 Broadway, Manhattan, but did not remain long.

No further word was heard from Hitch until Sept. 13, when he called up the office in New Rochelle and asked that money due him be sent to him at the Times Square Hotel. Before the bookkeeper could ask him any question he had rung off.

Hitch remained at the Times Square Hotel until the 16th, paying for his room daily, as he had no baggage. He was drinking slightly, though never intoxicated. It was said at the hotel today that he displayed a large roll of bills on several occasions, and the police believe that in some saloon he was drugged and robbed. For that reason the hospitals are being searched.

Hitch's relatives in New Rochelle believe he is a victim of amnesia. His accounts with the speedometer company were all straight.

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